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 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY China  
 SUBJECT Economic - Agriculture, insect control, plant diseases  
 HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper  
 WHERE PUBLISHED Peiping  
 DATE PUBLISHED 2, 6 Aug 1953  
 LANGUAGE Chinese

DATE OF INFORMATION 1953

DATE DIST. 24 Nov 1953

NO. OF PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Jen-min Jih-pao

NORTH CHINA FARMERS FIGHT INSECTS AND PLANT DISEASES

Summary: Farmers in North China are carrying out various activities in preparation for the autumn harvest. The emphasis is on insect control and prevention of plant diseases. Some areas appear to have been lax in these activities.

FARMERS CULTIVATE CROPS, FIGHT INSECTS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 2 Aug 53

Farmers in all areas of North China are now hoeing their crops, applying fertilizer, and fighting insects to ensure a good autumn harvest. Fall crops are very good in Hopeh and Shansi; millet in the plain areas is more than 4 feet high, corn and kaoliang have already headed, and cotton bolls are appearing. Crops in Suiyuan have benefited from the recent rains.

Since the beginning of summer, farmers in North China have been busily hoeing. In general, fall crops have been hoed once or twice; in the Peiping and Tientsin areas, crops have been hoed four times. In Shansi, certain cooperatives in ten hsiens, including Tso-ch'uan, P'ing-shun, and Chiao-ch'eng, utilized work brigades operating on a piece-work basis to hoe the fields. In competition with other farmers, a cooperative in Jih-an Ts'un of Chiao-ch'eng Hsien hoed a 375-mou field more than 10 days ahead of schedule.

More fertilizer is being used in 1953: in the Hopeh plain, from 2,000-2,200 catties of fertilizer were used per mou; in the mountain regions the figure was 3,000 catties per mou, an increase of 20 percent over 1952. Based on incomplete data from eight hsiens and 11 ch'u in Chang-chia-k'ou Special Administrative District, more than 100,000 mou of land have been fertilized during the summer. In Ch'in-yuan, Ch'ang-chih, and six other hsiens of Shansi, there was an average increase of over 3 piculs of fertilizer used per mou.

STAT

- 1 -

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In fighting insects, all levels of leadership have issued directives and have organized cadres to assist the farmers. The locusts on more than 560,000 mou of cultivated land in Hopeh have been completely exterminated. The extermination of cotton aphids in four hsiens, including An-kuo and Wu-chi, has begun. Based on figures from 131 hsiangs, more than 5,000 farmers have destroyed the aphids on 77,000 mou of land, and of this amount, more than 2,000 mou have undergone from two to four processes of extermination. In Hu-kuan Hsien of Shansi, insects were wiped out completely within 6 days after their appearance.

SHANSI VILLAGE LAX IN INSECT CONTROL WORK -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 2 Aug 53

Early in July, Ku-shan Ts'un in Ta-t'ung Hsien of Shansi had over 90 mou of land infested by nien-ch'ung [sticky insects, probably *Naranga diffusa*, Moor.] The wheat, corn, and millet on this land were damaged considerably. Cadres were sent to this area to assist in the extermination of these insects, but by mid-July the work was still not completed. The reasons for the failure of insect control in this area are:

There was no strong implementation of a policy of early, continual, and thorough extermination. The method used -- driving the insects into trenches -- was not performed efficiently or thoroughly. The leadership was poor. Some cadres, after experiencing the antibureaucratic and antiauthoritarianism movements, were reluctant to stimulate and organize the people, and were unable to instruct the people in insect control work.

INSECT CONTROL IN HOPEH AND SHANTUNG -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 2 Aug 53

A notice from the office of the Commissioner, Kalgan Special Administrative District indicates that during June, nien-ch'ung infested 11 hsiens of Chahar, among them Yang-yuan, Yu Hsien, and Ch'ih-ch'eng. The first insects that appeared were destroyed by early July. The present weather conditions have been ideal for a second appearance of the nien-ch'ung, and it is necessary that preparations for their systematic extermination be made now.

In Shantung, the Jung-ch'eng Hsien wheat area was also infested by nien-ch'ung. The farmers cleared them out of the fields immediately after the winter wheat harvest to prevent damage to fall crops.

EARLY PREVENTION OF PLANT DISEASES ESSENTIAL -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 6 Aug 53

The office of plant protection of the Ministry of Agriculture has issued a warning that the recent heavy rains and fluctuating temperatures have been very favorable for plant diseases such as rice heat; cotton stem wilt, angular leaf spot, and pink boll rot; late potato blight, tobacco black shank, and cabbage "Ku-ting" and soft rot. These plant diseases caused great damage in 1952. Last year rice heat extended throughout the rice producing regions, and based on the statistics of P'o-hai Ch'u in Hopeh, approximately 100 million catties were lost.

In the southern cotton areas, production was greatly decreased because of pink boll rot. Late potato blight was general in some areas; in the Chahar [sic] and Suiyuan potato belt, there was a loss of 350 million catties of

- 2 -

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potatoes. Tobacco losses caused by black shank reached more than 80 percent of total production. The cabbage "Ku-ting" and soft rot diseases prevalent in the metropolitan suburbs of the Northeast, and of Peiping, Sian and T'ai-yuan, caused a more than 50 percent loss in these areas.

At present, cotton stem rot and angular leaf spot have already appeared in all areas; late potato blight and tobacco black shank are expected to appear shortly. As yet, there have been no signs of pink boll rot in cotton, rice heat, and cabbage diseases, but the necessary precautionary measures must be taken now. Greater care and attention must be given to the correct use of fertilizer, irrigation, chemicals, equipment, etc., as means in the prevention of plant diseases.

STAT

- 3 -

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